Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* In the light of my submission will the Government be pleased to correct the official proceedings?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I do not think it is possible.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE—SHIFTING OF—FROM TRICHUR TO ERNAKULAM

274. Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Government is contemplating a transfer of the Comptroller's Office from Trichur to Ernakulam;

(*b*) whether the Comptroller's Office was not formerly at Ernakulam;

(*c*) when was it that the Comptroller's Office was shifted to Trichur and for what reasons; and

(*d*) why is it that the Government wants its transfer to Ernakulam now?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Not immediately.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) It was shifted to Ramavarmapuram in 1108 as the office is one to which the public very rarely, if ever, resort to and as there was plenty of accommodation there at the time. It was again shifted to Trichur in 1108 as the accommodation provided at Ramavarmapuram was found not suited for holding public offices. The blocks of buildings consist of small rooms and efficient supervision of the work of clerks was found practically impossible.

(*d*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether at the time when the office was shifted to Ramavarmapuram there was sufficient accommodation for all the staff?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* At first there was sufficient space for all. Subsequently the staff was increased.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What was the number of the staff when the office was shifted to Ramavarmapuram?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What was the increased staff when it was shifted to Trichur?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* It now consists of about 50 clerks.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether efficient supervision depends upon the size of the rooms?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* At Ramavarmapuram the rooms were all built for hostel purposes, and the office had to be shifted to Ramavarmapuram in the absence of accommodation at Trichur. It was not because Ramavarmapuram was found to be an ideal place that the office was shifted to that place. Therefore, even though there was some lack of supervision it had to be put up with. Subsequently when other arrangements were found feasible it was shifted to Trichur.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* My question is whether efficient supervision depends upon the size of the rooms?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* To a very great extent, yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* How?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* In Ramavarmapuram each clerk had to be given a room. There is a Superintendent to supervise the work of the clerks and he is in charge of over half a dozen clerks, and the Superintendent cannot see what they are doing. It is also very difficult to call the clerks for references. That is how the supervision is lacking.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Am I to understand that the Superintendent should sit in the same room?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* That is what is generally done in all public offices.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether there is sufficient accommodation in Trichur?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* We find some difficulty in our office, all the same it is much better.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* In view of answer to sub-division (a), may I know whether the Government is not contemplating the transfer?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* They were thinking of changing the office to Ernakulam for some time. They have not come to any final conclusion.

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Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: The answer to sub-division (d) is "does not arise in view of answer to (a)". May I know whether the Government is contemplating the transfer?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: They are not contemplating it now. They have dropped it for the present.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Is it the case of the Government that they are not going to transfer it?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: That does not follow.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: I am asking the Government whether the Government is contemplating the transfer if not now at some future date?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: We do not know what will take place in the future.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri)*: What was the necessity for the proposal to shift the office from Trichur to Ernakulam?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: The idea is that the Comptroller's Office should be very close to the Huzur Secretariat, the seat of the Government.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri)*: Was it transferred to Trichur only temporarily?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: It was as a permanent measure.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Is it lack of accommodation that is preventing the transfer?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: That is probably one of the reasons.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: I am not concerned with probabilities?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: It may be one of the reasons.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether the Comptroller's Office was not at Ernakulam at some time?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: It was.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether this reason that it should be very close to the Secretariat weighed with the Government then?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: They found that they wanted accommodation for other purpose at Ernakulam then, and therefore this office had to be shifted.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether it is the convenience of holding the office or other considerations that weighed with the Government in coming to the conclusion that this office should be in the metropolis?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: The Comptroller's Office is one which should ordinarly be very close to the Secretariat. There are constant references between the Government and the Comptroller's Office. In fact as the House knows the Comptroller is the Financial Adviser to the Government. Therefore, it was thought and it is held also that it is very advisable to have that office very close to the Secretariat, the seat of the Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: In view of the international situation it is better to shift as many offices from Ernakulam to Trichur than transferring the office from Trichur to Ernakulam.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether the inconvenience that was felt in Ramavarmapuram with regard to this efficient supervision is not felt now in Trichur?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: Not to that extent. In the present building we have some spacious halls and we have seated the clerks in more commodius halls thereby making supervision easier.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Will the Government be pleased to place on the table of the House the file connected with the transfer of the Comptroller's Office from Ernakulam to Trichur?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: If a specific question is put, about it that will be considered.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Is it very difficult to find a suitable building at Ernakulam?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: It is not very easy. The existing buildings at Ernakulam are found not suited for holding this office as they now stand and additions will have to be effected. With the present international situation, and the high cost of building materials it will not be wise to launch upon such extensions at present.

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Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* What is the international situation ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* You can ask the Hon'ble Member Mr. Mathai.

275. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state whether there is an idea to shift the Comptroller's Office from Trichur to Ernakulam ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the answer to question No. 274.

PORTION OF KARITHALA VILLAGE ADDED TO THE ERNAKULAM MUNICIPALITY— AMENITIES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE LOCALITY

276. Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when was that portion of Karithala which lies east of Ernakulam South Railway Station added to the Municipality ;

(*b*) how many houses are there in that stretch of land ;

(*c*) what all municipal amenities have they been provided for ;

(*d*) are they given lights ; have they scavenging service and have they other sanitary services ;

(*e*) is not that stretch of land bounded on all sides by water ;

(*f*) what provision has been made for their communication with the other parts of the town ;

(*g*) has not the one connection they had with the town been removed by the interception of the Station, etc. ;

(*h*) have there been cases of crossing the line by the people and consequent criminal charges ;

(*i*) are the houses in that area taxed as the other houses of the town ;

(*j*) what is the percentage of property-tax ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) In 1115.

(*b*) 102.

(*c*) An unmetalled road has been opened by Government from the Trippunittura road up to the centre of the inhabitable area.

(*d*) The Council has sanctioned kerosene oil lights to be put on the road.

(*e*) No; on one side it is connected to the Trippunittura road.

(*f*) Vide answer to sub-division (*c*).

(*g*) Yes; but in its place another has been provided.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) 30 out of the 102 houses are assessed.

(*j*) 11½ per cent of the annual value of lands and buildings.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Have the lights been put up ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There are more lights than before.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Scavenging service ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There is scavenging service arranged in the houses of all those who have registered for the same. Others have not applied.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* You have been collecting scavenging fee, and where is the necessity for an application ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That seems to be the practice.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* There is no such rule.

MATTANCHERI FORESHORE IMPROVEMENT

277. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to inform—

(*a*) details of the scheme they had designed to improve the Mattancheri Foreshore ;

(*b*) the cost of acquiring the area that they intended to acquire in the scheme ;

(*c*) the cost of acquiring the area with the buildings thereon now standing between the Women and Children Hospital on the south, the backwaters on the east, the Mattancheri Bazaar Road on the West and the British Harbour Workshop on the north ;

(*d*) will Government be pleased to state the present cost of building materials and the cost of the same in the month of December 1940 ;

(*e*) will Government be pleased to state the present annual rental value of the buildings and premises standing on the area specified in question (*c*) above, as per the last assessment made by the Municipal Council of Mattancheri ?

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